

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, December 8, 2022  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Members present(in-person):** Cathy Reynolds, Kevin Eaton, and Meadow Squier

**Others present:**

**Via Zoom:** Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar, Rainbow Squier, Pat Psholka, Nancy Birdsall, Michael Fallar, and Rick Smyrski-Morton Buildings @6:00.

**In-person:** Ethan Pepin-RRPC Transportation Planner, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Hollis Squier, Ray Pratt, and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

**Cathy** called the meeting to order at 5:30, welcomed everyone. No changes to the agenda.

**Minutes** of 11/10/022, Meadow moved, Kevin 2nded, to approve (Cathy will submit edits to Gail to use or not) as written, all voted in favor.

**Speed Study Report** ~ Ethan reviewed data from the RRPC report. He noted that 85% of drivers travel the correct speed for the road. There are two ways to change driver behavior – 1) enforcement or 2) change the geometry of the road. Where the highest speeds occurred in the study, the roads are straight, so that is not an option. Board inquired about time of day of the speeders in the report, which way they were driving, etc. Ethan advised he could pull that information. Cathy noted the speed study provides a baseline, but there are other factors to consider for setting proper speed limits. She also advised the current speed ordinance needed updating so that it spoke to stop signs as well as speed limits. Kevin recommended caution lights on the school zone signs. Safe School grants were discussed, grants for “you are going this fast” sign boards, etc. After discussion, Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to create a Speed Study Committee with those who volunteered and other interested parties. All voted in favor, Board asked Kevin to meet with the committee to help orient them to their task – to evaluate and review speed limits/signs, upgrade speed ordinance and look at enforcement. Appointed members were Sherry Johnson, Tracy Byford, Ray Pratt, Hollis Squier and Jeff Warfle. SBA will send them the speed study and the Setting Speed Limit Guide. Kevin indicated later in the meeting that the group would meeting beginning in February – due to the holidays and a busy January (budgets, town meeting warning, special vote).

**Citizen Input** ~ Hollis thanked the road crew for filling pot holes in the gravel roads.

**Public Facilities Update** ~ Rick from Morton reported they are nearing the finish line, crew is working on the porch, trim work on windows and doors, they are waiting for their auger truck to be repaired, hope to wrap up the end of next week. Plumbers and electrician are also getting near the end. Hope to turn over the building by Christmas. Cathy noted the blower test showed the building was tight. This led to discussion of the heaters (they pull in their own air), the exhaust fan, how it works, is it on a sensor – Rick will check. Cathy noted safety first, energy second, expressed concern with driving in and out and the CO levels. Board directed Eric to get independent CO sensors.

**Fire Alarm System** ~ Not included in the new building, Eric advised it is needed and presented a quote from Countryside, includes motion sensors and monitoring by them. May be possible to get a grant from the town’s insurance company to help offset the cost.

Board reviewed total spent to date on public works facilities - \$815,158. There is a balance in the Capital Building Fund of \$120,106. The town will need to provide a \$100,000 match for the TAP

salt/sand shed grant. There is still some work/expense for the garage – gravel for driveway, seed, mulch, fire alarm, etc.

**TAP Grant** – Cathy reported she had signed the contract with RRPC and the state. After brief discussion, Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to appoint Cathy, Eric, and Gail to the Consultant Selection Committee for the TAP grant. All voted in favor. This committee does not have power to spend, that will remain with the Select Board.

**Highway** ~ Eric reported the road crew has been busy filling pot holes and with tree clean-up. The new loader has arrived. Old loader was traded in. Eric advised that a bigger **floor jack** is needed for safety, will use tools/repair budget lines to cover, just wanted SB to know about it. Hollis advised he should also get the jack stands too. Eric also noted that VTEL's wife does not work in the metal building, Board authorized an **exterior antenna**.

Eric advised there was a mix-up with the **Cargill Salt contract** – their *Clear Lane* product is really \$97 per ton, not the \$85.50 as bid. After discussion, Cathy moved and Meadow 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the \$97 (still lower than the other bidder), with dismay to be expressed, all voted in favor.

**Highway Equipment Fund Spreadsheet** ~ Board reviewed, discussed adding wood chipper – (not to be shared with other towns), the need to keep the spreadsheet updated each year, etc.

**Draft FY24 Highway Budget** ~ Board discussed wage/salary increase, health insurance benefit, diesel fuel usage, winter salt usage, West Tinmouth winter road care contract, number of weeks for extra help, etc. Will have a special meeting to discuss more.

**Financial** ~ No monthly financial report, draft FY24 budget and end of year reports were reviewed.

Meadow moved and Cathy 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the following **FY23 payroll and accounts payable warrants**, all voted in favor.

**Payroll**

#19 dated 11/14/22 for \$1,514.64; #20 dated 11/21/22 for \$3,384.65; #21 dated 11/28/22 for \$2,056.79; and #22 dated 12/05/22 for \$3,973.62.

**Accounts Payable**

#17 dated 11/10/22 for \$26,347.47; #18 dated 11/14/22 for \$7,047.65; #19 dated 11/21/22 for \$5,958.00; #20 dated 12/01/22 for \$19,159.52; and #21 dated 12/05/22 for \$95,135.05.

**Follow-Up To Do List** ~ Board reviewed \*'s.

\* **Ash Tree Removal** – Eric advised an 80 foot lift could be rented for a month, for the cost of renting the big tree truck for a day – Board asked Eric for a plan to spend \$5,000.

Board asked if there was a dangerous tree list – discussion got side tracked as the tree across from Jenkins was brought up – Jack Butterfoss would like to revisit driveway permit requiring its removal. Discussed wind damage to tree at the community center – who's responsibility is it, town or school? Eric advised the road crew will take care of it. Tree warden David Birdsall will be asked to take a look, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the tree has been damaged – lightening was the first.

\***Equity and Inclusion Committee** – Meadow emailed report earlier.

\***MRUUSD/Community Center**- Cathy reported meeting with VLCT/PACIF -town's insurance company – they advised cleaning up language in the agreement with MRUUSD – building cannot be insured by two providers – more research is needed – as well as discussion with MR.

\***Housing Rehab Program**- This program is from the early 1990's, to help low income folks with housing needs – currently there are 3 owners paying back their mortgages, two have been deferred for a number of years dues to lack of income. Many others have repaid, voters transferred

\$30,000 to the Building Fund a couple of years ago. Folks with those kinds of needs are now sent to NeighborWorks in West Rutland.

**Special Town Meeting** ~ A petition to rescind the vote on November 8<sup>th</sup> was received, on time and with more than the required number of signatures. After lengthy discussion, Board decided to move its January meeting to Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, hold the informational meeting for the special town meeting on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>, and hold the special town meeting on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board also decided to hold a budget meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> and to approve and sign the warning for the special town meeting.

**Holiday Bonus** ~ Meadow moved, Kevin 2nded to give each regular town employee a \$100 holiday bonus, all voted in favor. (road crew, transfer station crew, town office staff)

**Mail/Correspondence** ~ Energy Webinar – no one was available to attend.

Gail advised that Stan and Rene Wilbur will be donating a picture of Tinmouth created for the new courthouse in Rutland – for the old fire house; and that Colleen Balch donated a US flag and a Vermont State flag that had belonged to the late Grant Reynolds (who collected dozens of flags).

**Executive Session** ~ At 9:14 Cathy moved and Meadow 2nded to enter executive session to discuss personnel. All voted in favor, Select Board only. Board exited at 9:14, no action taken.

**Next Meeting Schedule** ~ Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Informational Meeting on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant